

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were examined in the Office Action mailed May 1, 2006.

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 stand objected to for various informalities.

Claims 2-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as incomplete for omission of an essential step (linking of the country code to the language of the guidance information).

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,440,615 to Caccuro, *et al.* ("Caccuro").

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,069,939 to Fung, *et al.* ("Fung").

Claims 1, 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Caccuro in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,124 to Griesmer, *et al.* ("Griesmer").

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fung in view of Griesmer.

Claim Amendments: The following amendments have been made:

In response to the Examiner's helpful comments regarding identification as to where or in what device the origination country code is stored, the Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly identify the storage location.

The Applicants have amended claims 1-2 and 4-5 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions in order to resolve the claim objections.

In order to address the § 112 rejections (re: omitted steps), the Applicants have amended claims 2-3 and 7 to clarify the linkage between the country code

and the language.

Finally, the claims have been amended to recite a feature of the present invention not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, “*notification necessity/unnecessity determination means*” for determining whether notification of guidance information is necessary based on a notification necessity/unnecessity signal generated by the switchboard, and “*notification order setting means*” to direct the order for notification of guidance information based on the notification necessity/unnecessity signal generated by the switchboard. Examples of these means and their operation are shown in Figs. 2 and 6 (element 38; steps S24-26; S30-S32) and discussed at Specification pages 21, 23-33, 34-35.

The Amended Claims Are Patentable Over the Cited References.

Caccuro’s voice messaging system provides a response message to a caller in the predominant language of the originating location, based solely on the origination country code information it receives. This reference contains no suggestion for the presently claimed notification necessity/unnecessity determination means or the claimed notification order setting means.

The Fung reference teaches a system in which a calling party first must “select languages for delivery of audio prompts to countries,” and then, when the calling party places a call, the system uses the calling party’s selections to determine the language to be used with the called party. Again, there is no suggestion in Fung for the claimed notification necessity/unnecessity determination means or the claimed notification order setting means.

Finally, the Griesmer reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Caccuro and Fung, as Griesmer, cited for storage of an origination country code in a universal terminal rather than in a switchboard, contains nothing remotely suggestive of the claimed notification necessity/unnecessity determination means or the claimed notification order setting means.

The Applicants submit that the presently pending claims, as amended, are patentable over Caccuro, Fung and/or Griesmer under § 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.


If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010755.53247US).

Respectfully submitted,

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